

1 June 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Central Reference

FROM : Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT : Necessity of avoiding any compromise in interagency negotiations which would diminish the effectiveness of CIA's central reference system

REFERENCE : Report of the Inspector General's Survey of the Office of Central Reference

1. The referenced report includes the recommendation that:

"The CIA representatives on the IAC Ad Hoc Committee on Information Processing bear firmly in mind the Director's responsibility for insuring the coordination of intelligence activities in the best national interests and, therefore, that they do not accede to the adoption of some unproven system of inter-Agency information processing which, as part of the price of acceptance, compromises in any way the one efficient proven central reference system now operated on a community basis by CIA."

2. I am entirely in agreement with this recommendation and with the reasoning behind it. From time to time you will be tempted in the interest of budgetary or manpower savings to accept proposals from the other agencies which might have the effect of eroding the effectiveness of our own reference system. For example, it might well be argued that CIA should cease coding of Air Force reports when the Air Force is able to perform this work for itself. Such a division of labor would be desirable from an economic point of view, but it would be little short of disastrous if it meant in practice that Air Force information reports came gradually to be coded in a manner incompatible with the coding of CIA information reports.

3. Bear in mind, therefore, that the first responsibility of CIA's central reference system is to ensure that all available intelligence and information is coded by one system to meet the needs, first, of CIA itself, and second, of other agencies. Kindly see that these instructions are made known to our representatives on the AHIP Committee and to such other officers of OCR as should be aware of them.

9

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